

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-23 are currently pending.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 8, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,423,327 ("Dobson"), claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. patent 3,978,213 ("Lapinet"), and claims 2-6, 9-15, 17-20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Dobson. In view of the following comments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

The pending claims relate to methods of softening expression lines using an adenosine compound. Of particular note, the invention methods require direct application of the adenosine compound to the expression lines with the intent of softening the expression lines. None of the cited art teaches or suggests these unique treatment methods.

In making the pending rejections, the Office Action asserted that because expression lines are a type of wrinkle and because Dobson and Lapinet relate to treating wrinkles, Dobson and Lapinet therefore relate to treating expression lines. However, the logic upon which this assertion is based is flawed, meaning that the rejections themselves are flawed.

As demonstrated by Exhibits A-C cited by the Office Action, expression lines differ from other wrinkles such as those caused by sun damage, and expression lines are "difficult to treat." Thus, merely because a reference might disclose methods of treating other types of less difficult-to-treat wrinkles, it does not mean that such a reference (directed to a different type of wrinkle) teaches or suggests anything about how to treat expression lines. In other words, for example, a disclosure related to treating wrinkles caused by sun damage cannot

teach or suggest how to treat expression lines, which are recognized as being different, more difficult-to-treat types of wrinkles.

By way of analogy, baldness can be caused by different mechanisms such as, for example, alopecia or testosterone-related baldness. However, whereas testosterone-related baldness might be treatable using compounds which inhibit testosterone production or inhibit conversion of testosterone to active forms, alopecia cannot be treated using such compounds. Thus, although the effect (baldness) is the same, treatment methods are not interchangeable for the different types of baldness.

Similarly, in this case, treatment methods for treating one type of wrinkle are not interchangeable with methods for treating expression lines. Accordingly, references directed to treating wrinkles other than expression lines cannot teach or suggest methods of how to treat expression lines.

Neither Dobson nor Lapinet teaches or suggests softening expression lines by applying an adenosine compound thereto. Both Dobson and Lapinet teach treating wrinkles or damaged skin caused by sun, age and/or environmental factors such as wind. (See, Dobson at col. 1, lines 28-34 and Lapinet at col. 1, lines 49-56). As explained in the present specification (pages 2-4), the conditions treated by Dobson and Lapinet are different from expression lines: their causes are different and their treatments are different. For example, whereas wrinkles are caused by lack of collagen and can be addressed through collagen protection and/or synthesis, expression lines are caused by different mechanisms and cannot be addressed by increasing or protecting collagen. Thus, although Dobson and Lapinet teach addressing collagen-related conditions such as wrinkles or moisture-related conditions such

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as dry skin, these references neither teach nor suggest reducing or softening conditions unrelated to collagen or moisturization levels. Because expression lines are not collagen- or moisturization-related, neither Dobson nor Lapinet could possibly teach or suggest anything concerning treatment of this condition.

This is particularly true for claim 23 which focuses on application of specific amounts of a specific compound, adenosine, to soften expression lines. Neither Dobson nor Lapinet teaches or suggests anything concerning treatment of this condition, let alone the specific amounts of adenosine required in claim 23.

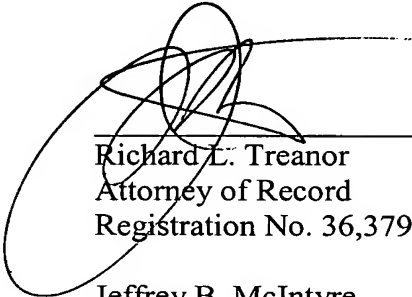
In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

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Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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